

Fall 8-15-2002

## ENG 2705-001: African American Literature

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2705-001

Professor John Martone  
**English 2705: African American Literature**  
MW, 3:00-4:15, CH3691  
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### Description

Texts from African American literature read in historical and cultural context and with attention to their place as and at the center of American writing.

### Texts

Ellison, *Invisible Man*.  
Gaines, *A Lesson Before Dying*.  
Gates, *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*.  
Hurston, *Their Eyes Watching God*.  
Lorde, *Zami*.  
Morrison, *Beloved*.

### Requirements

Participation (including unannounced quizzes on the reading): 10% of grade.  
Five 3-page essays: 30% of grade.  
Mid-term examination: 30% of grade.  
Final examination: 30% of grade.

### Schedule

Page numbers are to the Gates/McKay anthology. Where a specific work is listed, read the editors' introduction and that work. Where no work is specified, read the editors' introduction and the *entire* selection.

August 26. Introduction: At the Center.

Spirituals: *Were You There When They Crucified My Lord* (7), *Walk Together Children* (9), *I know Moon-Rise* (9), *Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?* (10-11), *No More Auction Block* (12-13), *Steal Away to Jesus* (13), *Go Down, Moses* (14) *Oh, Freedom* (15-16)

Gospel: *Down By the Riverside* (18-20), *Stand by Me* (21-22)

The Blues: *Yellow Dog Blues* (23-24), *St. Louis Blues* 24-25), *Hellhound on my Trail* (31-32), *It's a Low Down Dirty Shame* (32-33)

Ballads: *The Signifying Monkey* (43-44), *John Henry* (45-48), *Frankie and Johnny* (48-49), *Stackolee* (50).

Jazz: *(What Did I do to Be So) Black and Blue?* (57-58)

Rap: *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* (61-62), *The Message* (62-65)

Folktales: (103-125)

On the Web: <http://www.journale.com/withoutsanctuary/main.html>

September 2. Frederick Douglass, *Narrative* (302)

September 9. Douglass, *What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?* (379)  
Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (207)

September 16. Booker T Washington, *Up From Slavery* (488); Ida B. Wells, *A Red Record* (595)

September 23. WEB Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (613)

September 30. Jean Toomer, *Cane* (1087)

October 7. Claude McKay, (981), Sterling A. Brown (1210), Countee Cullen (1303), Langston Hughes (1251); MIDTERM EXAMINATION

October 14. Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

October 21. Richard Wright, *Blueprint for Negro Writing* (1376), *The Ethics of Living Jim Crow* (1388), *The Man who Lived Underground* (1414); Chester B. Himes, *Salute to the Passing* (1468)

October 28. Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (excerpts TBA)

November 4. James Baldwin; Robert Hayden, Gwendolyn Brooks (1577), Bob Kaufman (1717) [Mid-term]

November 11. Martin Luther King, Jr.(1853); Malcolm X (1816).

November 18. August Wilson, *Fences* (2409)

November 25. Thanksgiving Recess.

December 2. Audre Lorde, *Zami*.

December 9. Toni Morrison, *Sula* (2094).